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MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 24 October 1997 from the President of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to the Chairman of the Second Committee

Please allow me to begin by taking this opportunity to extend to you my appreciation and congratulations on our joint meeting yesterday. It was an historic event, which has strengthened the ties between the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), its Board and the Second Committee, and I look forward to meeting you in New York on 10 and 11 November on the occasion of the Second Committee's discussions on trade and development.

May I now turn to the issue at hand, and in my capacity as President of the Trade and Development Board at its forty-fourth session, inform you, as Chairman of the Second Committee, of the action taken by the Board in respect of the resolution adopted by the Third United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, held at Geneva in November 1995.

You will recall that paragraph 14 of the above-mentioned resolution contains a recommendation to the General Assembly to change the title of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices to Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy. Paragraph 15 of the resolution contains a recommendation to the General Assembly to convene a Fourth United Nations Conference on the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, to be held at Geneva under UNCTAD auspices in the year 2000. Those two issues became the subject of further consultations at the General Assembly, and the Trade and Development Board was subsequently requested to consult on the matter.

I am pleased to inform you that at its 890th plenary meeting, on 22 October 1997, as reflected in its report, the Board reached consensus on changing the name of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices to Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy. With regard to the question of convening a fourth Conference, agreement was reached, with the exception of one delegation which reserved its position, that a fourth Conference should be convened in the year 2000.

On that basis, the Trade and Development Board requested the General Assembly to take note of the above-mentioned resolution adopted by the Third Conference, and to endorse its recommendations. In that connection, the Board requested the General Assembly to take action on paragraph 15 of the resolution, as it deems appropriate.

I would be grateful if you would draw the attention of the Second Committee to the action of the Board on this matter.

(Signed) Goce PETRESKI
Ambassador
President of the Trade
and Development Board